

On the Lighter Side ...
Recall of Ganguly and Laxman !
Abhaya Sharma in Mumbai

Selectors: How do you see our move to induct some experience into the ailing Indian team! Don't we deserve a pat on the back, what do you say!

Crickriter: Well done ! But I thought you could have done still better by bringing back Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, they have much more experience than a Laxman or a Ganguly!

Selectors: what do you mean! They are past their age and have announced their retirement, you must talk sense! Be serious!

Crickriter: Oh! Is that so! I thought there was no one better than Sunil Gavaskar when it came to experience and show tenacity to stay at wickets, don't you remember the little master batted through the 60 overs, what if he mustered only 36 runs, what if English team won that world cup game Englishman could not get him out after all ! what if he had only one hundred in the shorter version of the game, he admits that scoring a hundred in one day game is quite difficult! Don't you remember he scored 700 plus runs on the caribbean grounds on his debut does it not go in his favor. Are you not aware that finally we have to build a team that plays the world cup in West Indies in a few months from now.

And Kapil Paaji, he still plays golf, that means he is still very active as a sportsperson! How could you forget his knock of 175 not out against Zimbabwe. Don't you remember that one knock lifted the morale of the team and imparted them with confidence so much so that they finally won the world cup against all the odds! Why don't we bring him back and ask him to win this 2007 world cup. It is a different matter that Kapil paaji may not get leave from

the golf course, when would the powers of Pawar come to your rescue ! he could serve the sermons to all golf courses to not let Kapil participate in any Golf tournament for pleasure, passion or pennies. They could be told his services are most needed by the team India as he is the only one who has experience in winning the world cups.

I could have suggested even Eknath Solkar had he not finished the innings of his life. There has not been a better fielder than him either living or dead in the country. Looking at so many catches being dropped and as many matches being lost it would only be appropriate to recruit someone to send SMS to Yamaraj or bribe Chitragupta to send him back to earth stating he has unfinished services with the Indian team. He is urgently required for the world cup 2007 and would be sent back once we have won the world cup.

Then there were some others like Ravi Shastri who could atleast present the first hand critical analysis of the game as being played in the middle, he is doing it so well in the commentators box, he could be asked to present the commentary live from the ground !

or how about Siddhu, who just by his sheer popularity after the Laughter Challenge show could easily be the best bet for putting brakes on the opposition bowlers. It is quite possible that they would not make him out as they would rather prefer to burst into laughter along side him. Siddhu as a matter of fact has earned respect for his genius like abilities to laugh at anything and everything. If nothing else atleast he could laugh off after losing of the game and could keep the team India in good jest. Imagine Siddhu in the dressing room after a poor performance, oh guru ! yeh to kuchh bhi nahi match to hamne haara thaa ek baar. Pakistani bande bhi pareshan the, unhe pata hi nahi chala ki vo jeet kaise gaye! Yeh to hota hi rahata hai tension nahi lene ka mere bhaai! Shekhar suman ko kya maloom ki cricket match haarane mein kitni mushkilen aati hain!

Par haan shayad Somenath Chatterjee ne apne bachpan mein cricket match to dekha hi hoga, Ganguly ke selection mein unka bhi haath lagata hai, chinta nahi karane ka boss, sukhi raho muskarate raho. Isimein bhalai hai Guru, ki match haaro to haaro magar cash na haaro, catch chhodo to chhodo par ad no chhodo!

Selectors : That sounds ridiculous, these men you are trying to induct would themselves turn down our offer. Besides, as with all government things we too have age bar for qualifying to get selected into the team India. Sunil and Kapil are beyond the age long back and Manoj and Sahbaaz and for that matter even Chawla are under age, we are bound by the prevailing laws and have no powers to amend the existing rules of the selection criteria in India.

And yes only the living could join the team, we don't want the cricket grounds worldover to become haunted by the presence of Solkar on the field. That would be too much, ICC may debar us from participation in any matches thereafter.

Ravi Shastri and Siddhu are too busy with their Television engagements they wouldn't even blink their eyes at our proposals, you see, they are practical man they would only go where there is money, fame and glamour. They can not be picked. We can only pick the team from what is available at hand !

Crickriter: Then I am afraid friends, that I don't join hands to applause your reinstatement of Ganguly and Laxman, there could have been better options to strengthen the existing young bunch of cricketers who had 16 or 17 consecutive victories while chasing in the not very distant past, if you feel that is a thing of past then the glory of Ganguly is further deeper into the past.